

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A steering wheel mounting hub comprising a plastic frustum-shaped body having a generally planar upper surface of a predetermined first diameter and an opposed
5 generally planar lower surface of a predetermined second diameter larger than the first diameter, said upper surface having fastening means for attaching a steering wheel thereto, and a mounting bore extending through said body between said upper surface and said lower surface, said bore defining an inner surface and being adapted to receive an end of a steering shaft.
- 10 2. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said fastening means is a plurality of apertures formed in said body at said upper surface and adapted to receive self-tapping threaded fasteners.
- 15 3. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said inner surface has a star-shaped profile.
4. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 3 wherein said star-shaped profile is formed by a plurality of V-shaped grooves.
- 20 5. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said inner surface has a cylindrical profile with a plurality of radially outwardly extending grooves.
6. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 including a recess
25 formed said upper surface for receiving a steering shaft nut.
7. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 including an annular recess formed in said lower surface between a central boss and an outer wall of said body.
- 30 8. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 7 including a plurality of radially extending ribs connected between said central boss and said outer wall dividing said annular recess into a plurality of segments.

9. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 8 wherein each said segment has an associated slot formed in a bottom wall of said recess.

10. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said body is
5 formed of a reinforced plastic material.

11. A steering wheel mounting hub comprising:
a plastic frustum-shaped body having a generally planar upper surface of a
predetermined first diameter and an opposed generally planar lower
10 surface of a predetermined second diameter larger than the first diameter;
a plurality of fastener apertures formed in said body at said upper surface for
receiving fastening means to attach a steering wheel to said upper surface;
a central recess formed in said body at said upper surface for receiving a steering
wheel retaining nut; and
15 a mounting bore formed through said body and centered on a longitudinal axis of
said body, said bore extending from said central recess to said lower
surface and being tapered to receive an end of a steering shaft.

12. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 wherein said fastener
20 apertures are adapted to receive self-tapping threaded fasteners.

13. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 wherein said mounting
bore has an inner surface with a star-shaped profile.

25 14. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 13 wherein said star-
shaped profile is formed by a plurality of V-shaped grooves.

15. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 wherein said mounting
bore has an inner surface with a cylindrical profile and a plurality of radially outwardly
30 extending grooves.

16. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 including an annular recess formed in said lower surface between a central boss and an outer wall of said body.

17. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 16 including a plurality of
5 radially extending ribs connected between said central boss and said outer wall dividing said annular recess into a plurality of segments.

18. The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 17 wherein each said segment has an associated slot formed in a bottom wall of said recess.

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19. A steering wheel assembly comprising:

a steering wheel having a center disk;

a fastener means; and

a mounting hub connected to said center disk of said steering wheel by said fastener

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means, said mounting hub having a plastic frustum-shaped body with a generally planar upper surface of a predetermined first diameter and an opposed generally planar lower surface of a predetermined second diameter larger than the first diameter, a plurality of fastener apertures formed in said body at said upper surface and retaining said fastener means, a central recess formed in said body open to said upper surface for receiving a steering shaft retaining nut, and a mounting bore formed in said body extending from a bottom wall of said recess to said lower surface and being tapered to receive a steering shaft.

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